

**COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2021**

*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually (via ZOOM),
and was live streamed on the City's website*

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: William Embiser, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Marc Lessard

Amy Clearwater and Doris Ortiz were excused.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Presentation: Volunteer of the Year for 2020

Mayor Casavant recognized the Volunteers of LaKermesse Franco-Americaine Organization as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year. They are recognized for their tireless efforts each year to plan, organize, and put on the LaKermesse Festival; as well as for their assistance with putting up and taking down the Holiday lights in the downtown, including the lights in the holiday tree; and participating in Winter Fest and River Jam.

Presentation: Police Department Annual Report of Activities

Police Chief Roger Beaupre gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Police Department activities in 2020. {A copy of the presentation can be found on the City's website under the Police Department page and as part of this meeting's packet.} Chief Beaupre discussed how COVID-19 affected the operations of the department in 2020, and the precautions and safety measures that have been instituted in response to the pandemic. The report shows comparisons from over the past three years of statistics on: calls for police services, offenses, arrests, drug-related activities, traffic/parking warnings and citations and more.

Chief Beaupre spoke about a new program instituted through the People Recovery Program, called PAARI Fentanyl Test Strip Outreach. As described in a memo from Biddeford's People Recover Coordinator, Maegan Lambert-Irish, *"People Recover will facilitate the distribution of fentanyl test strip kits as an engagement tool for those at risk of overdose. These test strips are used to detect the presence of fentanyl in any drug. More importantly, they help people change their use behavior, inform users about their possible exposure to fentanyl, will be a helpful tool to develop trust and build relationships, and could foster a person's readiness for a referral to treatment. This program is taking a harm reduction approach and consistent with the People Recover philosophy of meeting those who struggle with addiction "where they're at".* "

Recently the Police Department joined in partnership with Spurwink Services to work with a Community Engagement Specialist, Jacob Hammer. Jacob's role is task-assigned by COPE to coordinate services for those with mental health issues and/or homelessness. Jacob's role will continue to evolve as the Department further explores the needs within the community.

The Public Safety Radio Project is underway and is projected to be in place by Fall of this year.

Presentation: FY22 City Government Proposed Budget

City Manager James Bennett gave an overview of the proposed FY22 City Government General Fund Budget. He talked about the impact that COVID-19 had on the current fiscal year budget, and the possible impact on the FY22 budget; the property valuation challenges for FY22; and the City Manager's suggested approach for dealing with the FY22 budget.

Proclamation: Brain Awareness Week – March 15 – 21, 2021

Mayor Casavant read the Proclamation, which was brought forward by the Center of Excellence in the Neurosciences at the University of New England.

Consideration of Minutes:

➤ **February 16, 2021 Special Joint City Council/School Committee Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the minutes as printed.
Vote: Unanimous.

➤ **February 16, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to accept the minutes as printed.
Vote: Unanimous.

Orders of the Day:

2021.20

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MARCH 2, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby endorse the MDOT Traffic Analysis and Movement Evaluation (TAME) Report for the Main, Hill and Water Street Intersection Improvement Project, as outlined in the March 2, 2021 Memo from the City Engineer.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.21

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MARCH 2, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford resolves that:

1. The City Manager, James A. Bennett is authorized and approved to submit a grant application for the reconstruction of Pearl Street to:
 - a. Economic Development Administration (EDA or the Agency), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)
 - b. Funding Opportunity Title: FY2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance) Notice of Funding Opportunity
 - c. Funding Opportunity Number: PWEAA2020
 - d. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers: 11.300, Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities and 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance
2. The City Manager, James A. Bennett, is the city's Authorized Representative for the purposes of the project;
3. The City is the lawful owner of Pearl Street and commits to the operation and maintenance of all improvements proposed in the project;
4. The necessary matching funds of \$1.156,015 are available and committed to the Pearl Street project, and are not otherwise encumbered;
5. The Planning and Development Director, Mathew Eddy (or his assignee), is the authorized point person responsible for surveying project beneficiaries at the 3, 6 and 9 year points in order to comply with Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 reporting requirements.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

2021.22

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL..MARCH 2, 2021

BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council of the City of Biddeford does hereby authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a Voluntary Compliance Agreement with the Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to grant the order.
Vote: Unanimous.

Appointments:

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MARCH 2, 2021

ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

**Ari Brandstein
6 Buckleys Court
Ward 2**

to the *Board of Assessment Review*, for a term to expire in December 2025.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

IN BOARD OF CITY COUNCIL...MARCH 2, 2021
ORDERED, that I, Alan M. Casavant, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, do hereby appoint:

Ari Brandstein
6 Buckleys Court
Ward 2

to the *Zoning Board of Appeals*, as an Associate Member, for a term to expire in December 2024.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to confirm the appointment.
Vote: Unanimous.

Public Addressing the Council...(5 minute limit per speaker; 30 minute total time limit):
One citizen addressed his comments to the Council.

There was no *City Manager Report*

There was no *Other Business*

Council President Addressing the Council: Councilor McCurry asked where the City stands with the Biddeford Youth Advisory Council.

Councilor McCurry noted that budget season is upon us and he thanked the City Manager and all the Department Heads for putting together the proposed FY22 budget. He looks forward to healthy debate amongst the Council; and he would like to see the School Department budget gain Council approval quickly so that the School Budget Referendum can get out to the voters in a timely manner.

Mayor Addressing the Council: Mayor Casavant thanked City Staff for the heavy load they have been carrying over the last year. He recognizes that the pandemic has caused a lot of issues for a lot of people, and he is very appreciative of all the City Staff has done and continues to do to continue serving the citizens of Biddeford.

Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405(6)(E)...Pending Litigation

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Belanger to move into Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous. Time: 7:37 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to move out of Executive Session.

Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:12 p.m.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Ready to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous. Time: 8:12 p.m.

Attest by: _____
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk